

THE BULLETIN

MAKE NO LITTLE PLANS

“Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men’s blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistency. Remember our sons and grandsons are going to do things that would stagger us...Think big.” These words were written by Daniel H. Burnham, Chicago architect and city planner.

Such encouragement is appropriate in the spiritual realm. The church, of all people, needs to make big plans for the future of the Lord’s work. May it not be said of us that “the sons of this world are for their own generation wiser than the sons of light” (Luke 16:8). While businesses and other worldly interests are planning for the future, may we not be caught dreaming of the past.

There are souls to be saved. There are missions to be launched. There is a world to be won for Christ. What are our plans for meeting such challenges? Are we making big plans, aiming high, and thinking about the enlargement of the kingdom? Are we dreaming big dreams, using imaginative techniques and harnessing the great manpower that is ours to accomplish Christ’s work in the earth? We need to leave room for God to work in our lives and in our plans. “For whatsoever is begotten of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that hath overcomes the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4).

Morris D. Thurman

The Manchester church of Christ

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Our Minister:

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Our Deacons:

Tony Casella- Finance
Fred Hillhouse- Facilities
Doug Paul- Education
Stuart Peacock- Worship
Pete Steffensen- Facilities
David Skerry- Benevolence & Outreach



Our Family News

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household," Ephesians 2:19, NAS95.

If you're a visitor to our church, welcome! If you have questions, we welcome them; please don't hesitate to ask Park Linscomb our minister (the really tall guy) or any other church member.

Life-Line Screening is this Thursday, March 26.

Sooooo, we need folks on Wednesday after Bible classes willing to help move the chairs in the auditorium to the stage up front. Likewise, we'll need help moving the chairs back to their usual places.

Also, we'll need some folks willing to sit in the foyer to welcome those who come and pass out some of our literature. Here's an easy way to share the good news.

Help needed! We'd like to send out some invitations to our Pantry and GAD contacts to invite them to worship with us on Easter. The work would be during the day on either March 24 or 25. If you can help, please call the office. Here's another great way to share the Gospel.

Monday Night for the Master is April 6 at 6PM. Good food and good works!

Please pray for the family of our brother Curtis Winstead Curtis passed away



Tuesday, ending his struggle with cancer and starting his eternal life with the Lord. Curtis served as an elder for the church here in Manchester during the early 2000s. He was also a retired Air Force Colonel, having served up until a couple of years ago. The family has requested that donations be made to either Wounded Warrior Project or the Christian Relief Fund (for children).

Menu for this Wednesday's dinner is *corned beef and cabbage*.

Next Leadership Training:

April 11, 10am to noon. A good crowd of men came to yesterday's class to learn more about leading in the worship. Our focus for April will be devotional thoughts and sermons. Donuts provided.

March 29, is the 5th Sunday of March. We'll be taking up special collection to expand the pantry in the office basement. Here's another great way to help our outreach to the community.

Mark your calendars...

- March 26, Life-Line Screening at our building
- March 28, Ladies Day in Roxbury MA, see bulletin board for details
- March 27, the church here hosts *Lifeline Screening*
- April 6— MNFM
- April 10-12—the



Conway ladies' day

- April 18, Concord NH church hosts an area-wide singing, 2pm-4pm, with dinner
- April 24-26, the Manchester Youth Rally (ours)
- May 1-3, the New England Lectures in Taunton MA

Prayer List:

Evangelism: Bible studies in progress, our website, MNFM, food pantry, Brethren who have forsaken the assembly



Health: Anthony Davis, Natalie Cleavitt, Louise Linscomb, Peggy Mailloux, Curtis Winstead, Jean Cadet, Lynn Millette, Mary Jane, Dave Seguin, Barbara Ann, David Lovering, Gary Chase Jr., Linda Tetrault, Jim Kenison, Brian Day, John Matthew, Jamie Hazelton

Struggles: Kathy Feuerhelm, Darlene Chamberlain, Mark Brown & Emma, Linda Tetrault, Jim Kenison.

Leadership: Ministers, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Parents

Our Statistics for the week from March 15, 2015

Sunday morning worship	120
Wednesday evening Bible classes	70
Contribution	\$3911
Budget	\$2300

A Word of Encouragement

"For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it." Hebrews 2:1, NAS95.

FOLLOWING JESUS TO UNEXPECTED PLACES: LATE TO BETHANY

In John 10, at the feast of Hanukkah (John 10:22), Jesus makes some rather bold claims about His identity: "I and the Father are one," and "I am the Son of God." The leading Jews of Jerusalem did not believe Him and sought to seize Him and stone Him (vv.31, 39). Consequently, Jesus and His disciples retreated across the Jordan to where John the Baptist was first baptizing, "Bethany across the Jordan" (John 1:28); about 100 miles NNE of Jerusalem.

But while Jesus was in Bethany beyond the Jordan, His friend Lazarus in Bethany near Jerusalem became gravely ill. In great concern for his life, Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha, send a message to Jesus to come back quickly to heal their brother. The message would have taken about four days to reach Jesus, and we might have expected Jesus to come immediately to help His friend—that's what Mary and Martha were hoping for. But Jesus waits two days before telling His disciples to pack up and follow Him back to Judea—and only after Jesus knew (probably from divine knowledge) that Lazarus had already died.

Jewish burial customs are different from ours, even to this day. While most modern Americans embalm and bury their dead after three days or more; religious Jews, both then and now, bury their dead without embalming within 24 hours. So, by the time that Jesus reaches Bethany near Jerusalem, Mary and Martha are already in the traditional second stage of Jewish mourning, *shiva*, surrounded by neighbors, friends, and those wanting to offer consolation. Jesus is arriving about ten days after Mary and Martha had first sent word to Him.

When word of Jesus' approach comes to Martha, she goes out to meet the Master. In her grief she greets Jesus with, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." Nevertheless, Martha's faith hasn't wavered, "Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You"—it's just that her understanding of what was possible with Jesus was a bit limited. Despite Jesus' talk of resurrection, Martha remained grief stricken; and she goes to tell Mary of Jesus' arrival.

When Mary was told that Jesus was in town, she (and an entourage of mourners) immediately got up and met Him in tears—with the same disappointment and grief-

laced greeting as Martha, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

It should be wonderfully noted here, that Jesus was not a stone in the face of all these tears, unmoved by His friends' heartbreak and confusion. Instead, "He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled," and "... wept" (John 11:33,35).

Jesus asked to be taken to the Lazarus' tomb, and then asked them to do something highly unusual and what they thought would be pretty gruesome, open the tomb after the body had been in there for four days. Martha tries to discourage this by telling Him that Lazarus' decomposing body shall have created a stench in the tomb by this point. It was her way of saying that it was just too late.

What she didn't realize was that it's never too late for Jesus, and never too late for God. Jesus spoke in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth," and the dead man, whose decomposing body created the stench came forth alive, well, and recomposed. It's never too late for the Lord. Surprise!

Waiting on the Lord is always hard; that's why we read so many Scriptural encouragements to "wait". As humans, who cannot see what's going on in the spirit world, waiting is a strain on our faith in prayer, on faith in God's promises, and on our faith in God. We, like Mary and Martha, send word to God in prayer, and then... uncomfortable silence and crickets. And we are left to wonder what's going on, and perhaps we even echo Mary and Martha in our consequent prayers, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

Now, of course, God's answer to us is sometimes "no", but sometimes it is "yes but wait". And just as in the story of Lazarus, God may not be on our time schedule, but He is never too late. For the Jesus who raised the decomposing corpse of Lazarus to perfect health, it is never too late.

And He is never too late for your prayer requests either. So, wait on the Lord in your prayers. Those who do, who do not in impatience try to "help" God and get in the way (e.g., Abram and Sarai), will have renewed strength, when the Lord answers. They will mount up in joy with wings like eagles!

Park Linscomb

**God may not be
on our time
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Our Congregational Calendar for March 22 through April 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am	23	24	25 Bible class 7PM	26 Lifeline Screening	27	28
29 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am Youth Rally Org mtg @ Skerry home approx 12	30	31	1 Bible class 7PM	2	3	4

Bible Reading Schedule for this Week		
Sun	Mar 22	Leviticus 8-9
Mon	Mar 23	Leviticus 10
Tue	Mar 24	Leviticus 11-12
Wed	Mar 25	Matthew 26
Thu	Mar 26	Leviticus 13
Fri	Mar 27	Leviticus 14
Sat	Mar 28	Leviticus 15

SERVICE	SUNDAY, MARCH 22	WED., MARCH 25
<i>Call to worship</i>	Gerry Millette	
<i>Songleading</i>	Steve Johnson	Steve Johnson
<i>Scripture reading</i>	Rich Wilson	
<i>Communion</i>	Rich Therrian	
<i>Devo thought</i>		Park L.
<i>Closing prayer</i>	Stuart Peacock	
<i>Coordinator</i>	Ken Simon	
<i>Tech</i>	Barry Fogal	



Are you planning on coming to the youth rally organizational meeting at the Skerry home on March 29 at noon. You should! Even if you weren't able to come for the first meeting, come to this one and get a job to do. Youth rallies are even more enjoyable, when you are part of helping make it happen!

Proverbs 1:1-4 "The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding, To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice and equity; To give prudence to the naive, **To the youth knowledge and discretion,**"

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